

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06555 290552Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 CTME-00 AID-05 /023 W
-----014411 300502Z /20

R 280216Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9198
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 06555

BANGKOK FOR DEA

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS : SNAR, TW
SUBJECT : ARREST OF MA HSI-CHEN AND MA HUAN-JAN

1. HONG KONG FUGITIVES MA HSI-CHEN (7456/1917/3791
A/K/A MA I-SHENG 7456/1150/4141) AND MA HUAN JAN
(7456/3562/3544) WERE ARRESTED BY TAIWAN GARRISON
COMMAND PATROL BOATS NEAR SUAO ON THE MORNING OF
SEPTEMBER 20. GROC AUTHORITIES AT FIRST DENIED NEWS
REPORTS OF THE CAPTURE; HOWEVER CONFIRMED THEM ON
SEPTEMBER 22. THE TGGH TURNED THE TWO MEN OVER TO
THE CUSTODY OF THE TAIPEI DISTRICT COURT AND THEY
ARE PRESENTLY BEING HELD AT THE COURT'S DETENTION
HOUSE. TO DATE THE ONLY KNOWN CHARGE BROUGHT AGAINST
THE SUBJECTS IS ILLEGAL ENTRY (PRESS ACCOUNTS CLAIM
BOTH MEN HAVE ROC PASSPORTS BUT NO VALID ENTRY PERMIT);
HOWEVER, THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF INVESTIGA-
TION IS EXAMINING THE CHARGES OF ALLEGED DRUG TRAFFICKING
OPERATIONS BY THE TWO MA'S.

2. LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT. SOME LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS
CLAIM ROC PRESIDENT CHIANG CHING-KUO PERSONALLY ORDERED
THE ARREST OF THE TWO MA'S WHEN HE WAS INFORMED OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 06555 290552Z

THEIR CAPTURE (NOTE: EMBASSY UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS
POINT TO DATE). THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS
(WHICH OFTEN REFLECTS GROC POSITION) ON SEPTEMBER 24
QUOTED "A POLICE OFFICIAL" AS SAYING "ACCORDING TO
CHINESE CRIMINAL LAW, CHINESE CITIZEN WHO VIOLATE
THE ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY CAN
BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRIMINAL

LAW IN TAIWAN." THE STORY, AFTER REPORTING PRESIDENT CHIANG'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION IN THE CASE, NOTED, "IRONICALLY, MA'S HONG KONG NEWSPAPER WAS A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF THE ROC DURING THE DAYS WHEN HE WAS PUBLISHER." THE CHINA NEWS ACCOUNT ENDED WITH ATTRIBUTING TO "GOVERNMENT SOURCES" THE OBSERVATION THAT THE MA'S COULD PLEAD GUILTY IN CHINESE COURTS TO TRAFFICKING IN MARIJUANA (MAXIMUM PENALTY LIFE SENTENCE) INSTEAD OF TRAFFICKING IN HEROIN (AUTOMATIC DEATH SENTENCE). IN A SEPTEMBER 23 STORY THE CHINA NEWS NOTED THAT THERE IS NO EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE ROC AND HONG KONG, "...EVEN THOUGH CHINESE AND HONG KONG POLICE HAVE COOPERATED IN GETTING THE MEN THEY WANTED IN THE PAST."

COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE COORDINATED COMMENT WHEN DEA SAIC RETURNS TO POST OCTOBER 2. FINAL DISPOSITION ON THE TWO MA CASES WILL REST ON WHETHER INFORMATION FROM HONG KONG AUTHORITIES IS TRANSMITTED VIA INTERPOL, AND WHETHER LOCAL JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES ACCEPT THIS AS ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE IN THE TRIALS.
BROWN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TAIPEI06555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780399-0404
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978099/aaaaahca.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63adde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1507395
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF MA HSI-CHEN AND MA HUAN-JAN
TAGS: SNAR, TW, (MA HSI-CHEN), (MA HUAN-JAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63adde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014